

Nebraska and this body and this issue wants continued debate on this floor. This is a measure which if adopted by this body and submitted to the voters and adopted by the voters would turn the Legislature into a partisan Legislature. That would then mean that people could run for the office of State Senator as Republicans, as Democrats, as Independents, as Socialists, Communists, Fascists, or what have you, but it would then mean if this measure was adopted by the Legislature and the people of the State of Nebraska that the Legislature...that Senators would be elected on partisan tickets and the Legislature itself will be organized on partisan lines. I am a lover of democracy and the democratic process. Democracy is the only way of life so far as I am concerned. It is important for all of us to make certain that democracy works to our mutual satisfaction. Democracy best works to the mutual satisfaction of the peoples of this country and other countries and of 49 states when legislative bodies are elected on a partisan basis. I have laid on your desk a very thoughtful letter prepared at my request by Ronald Bowmaster of the Legislative Research Council. I simply asked Mr. Bowmaster if he would take the time to go through the scholarly literature, the scholarly literature that deals with the issue of partisanship and nonpartisanship. Mr. Bowmaster has done that. If you take the time during the course of this debate and this discussion to review that literature, you will note that every scholar looking at the nonpartisan legislature ends up concluding that the nonpartisan legislature fails to provide voters with accountability. It fails to provide voters with accountability. Voters are simply put in a position of voting the person and not the issues. Voters have no way of ascertaining whether or not the person has delivered or can deliver. Only when, only when candidates for office stand as members of political parties and are elected as members of political parties can voters know who to hold to account when issues do not succeed. I am a Democrat. If this measure was ultimately to pass, become a part of our Constitution, by virtue of being a Democrat, I undoubtedly would lose my chairmanship of the Executive Board. I undoubtedly would lose that because this body would be organized on a partisan basis, and by being organized on a